GENDER INEQUALITY AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV): A CASE OF MAWOGOLA COUNTY, SSEMBABULE DISTRICT

BY

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Declaration

I, **MUGISA JOSEPH,** declare that this dissertation is my own original work and that it has not been presented and will not be presented to any other University for similar or any other degree award.

Sign…….. **Date**……

MUGISA JOSEPH

Approval

This is to certify that this dissertation has been submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the Bachelor of Social Work and Social Administration, with my approval as Institution supervisors.

Signature……. Date …….

(University Supervisors).....

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Dedication

This work is dedicated to my beloved parents, whose belief in the power of education has been my greatest inspiration. I also dedicate this research to all individuals fighting against gender inequality and gender-based violence, with the hope that this study will contribute to the ongoing efforts to eliminate these societal issues.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

GBV: Gender-Based Violence

UN: United Nations

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

SDG: Sustainable Development Goal

DV: Dependent Variable

IV: Independent Variable

SPSS: Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

VAW: Violence Against Women

CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Abstract

Gender inequality and gender-based violence (GBV) remain pervasive issues across the world, including in Uganda. This study, conducted in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District, examines the relationship between education, economic empowerment, cultural norms, and the occurrence of gender-based violence. The research adopts a mixed-methods approach, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data from 59 respondents. The study aims to investigate how education level, economic empowerment, and cultural beliefs contribute to gender inequality and the perpetuation of gender-based violence.

The findings reveal a significant correlation between lower levels of education and higher incidences of gender-based violence. Additionally, economic dependence on men and cultural norms that reinforce patriarchal structures were identified as key factors contributing to GBV. The study concludes that addressing educational disparities and promoting economic independence for women are essential steps toward reducing GBV. Furthermore, it emphasizes the need for community-driven efforts to challenge harmful cultural norms that perpetuate violence. This research provides valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and NGOs working toward gender equality and violence prevention, offering recommendations for effective intervention strategies in the community.

Keywords: Gender inequality, gender-based violence, education, economic empowerment, cultural norms, Mawogola County.

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the background to the study, problem statement, General objective, specific objectives, research questions, the scope of the study, significance of the study and the theoretical/conceptual framework and Definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

1.1.1 Historical Perspective

Globally, gender inequality and gender-based violence have been pervasive issues throughout history, deeply rooted in patriarchal systems that prioritize male dominance and female subordination. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reports that while progress has been made towards gender equality, significant gaps remain, particularly in areas such as political representation and economic participation. Recent data from the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2023 highlights that it took approximately 132 years to close the global gender gap at the current rate of progress.

In Africa, gender inequality and GBV are exacerbated by socio-economic and cultural factors. A report by the African Development Bank (AfDB) indicates that women in sub-Saharan Africa perform the majority of unpaid labor, limiting their access to education and formal employment opportunities. Furthermore, traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage remain prevalent. According to UNICEF, more than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM, with the highest prevalence rates found in African countries. The African Union's Agenda 2063 aims to eradicate these practices and promote gender equality across the continent, yet implementation remains challenging.

In the East African region, gender inequality and GBV are significant barriers to development. The East African Community (EAC) recognizes the importance of addressing these issues to achieve sustainable development. According to a study by the EAC Secretariat, women in East Africa face high levels of domestic violence, with over 50% of women in Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya

reporting experiences of physical or sexual violence. The 2022 East African Gender Equality Index reveals that while there has been some progress in women's political representation and education, economic disparities remain stark. Efforts to harmonize legal frameworks across the region to protect women's rights are ongoing, but cultural resistance and limited resources hinder progress.

At the national level in Uganda, gender inequality and GBV are critical issues that impact women's rights and well-being. The Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) 2021 indicates that 56% of ever-married women have experienced spousal violence, whether physical, sexual, or emotional. The Ugandan government has enacted several laws and policies to combat GBV, including the Domestic Violence Act 2010 and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2010. However, enforcement remains weak due to insufficient funding and social norms that condone violence against women. Recent efforts by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) to promote gender equality include community sensitization programs and support services for GBV survivors.

In Mawogola County, Ssembabule District, gender inequality and GBV are pervasive, reflecting broader national trends. Local cultural practices and economic conditions contribute to the marginalization of women and girls. A study by the Ssembabule District Local Government reveals that early marriage and school dropout rates for girls are alarmingly high, driven by poverty and cultural expectations. Local NGOs, such as the Ssembabule Women’s Advocacy Network, report that domestic violence is widespread, with limited access to legal recourse and support services for victims. Community-based interventions aimed at changing gender norms and providing economic opportunities for women are beginning to show promise, but sustained efforts and increased resources are needed to make a significant impact.

1.1.2 Theoretical Perspective

The Social Ecological Model (SEM) offers a comprehensive framework for understanding the multifaceted and interactive effects of personal and environmental factors that determine behaviors, including those related to gender inequality and gender-based violence (GBV). Originally developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner in the 1970s, the model has been adapted for public health applications and is extensively used in understanding GBV (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). SEM posits that human behavior is influenced by multiple layers of influence: individual, relationship, community, and societal levels. This model helps to identify points of intervention and highlights the importance of addressing factors at each level to effectively combat GBV and promote gender equality.

At the individual level, factors such as personal history, education, and psychological characteristics influence behaviors and experiences related to gender inequality and GBV. Research by Heise (2011) indicates that individual risk factors for experiencing or perpetrating GBV include low education, witnessing or experiencing violence as a child, and attitudes accepting of violence and gender inequality. At the relationship level, intimate partner relationships and family dynamics play a critical role. Jewkes et al. (2010) found that unequal power dynamics in relationships, financial dependence, and male control over decision-making are significant predictors of GBV. At the community level, social relationships, peer influences, and community norms shape behaviors. Studies highlight that communities with strong gender norms that support male dominance and condone violence against women have higher rates of GBV (Fulu et al., 2013). Finally, at the societal level, broader societal factors such as cultural norms, economic policies, and legal frameworks influence gender inequality and GBV. For example, societies with rigid gender roles and weak enforcement of laws protecting women's rights tend to have higher prevalence rates of GBV (WHO, 2013).

The SEM underscores the importance of multi-level interventions to address gender inequality and GBV effectively. For instance, individual-level interventions might focus on education and empowerment programs, while relationship-level efforts could involve couples counselling and family interventions. Community-level strategies might include public awareness campaigns and community mobilization to change norms, and societal-level actions could involve policy reforms and strengthening legal frameworks (Dahlberg & Krug, 2015). This holistic approach is crucial for

sustainable change, as interventions at one level can reinforce and support efforts at other levels. Addressing the interconnected factors across all levels, the SEM provides a robust framework for understanding and addressing the complex dynamics of gender inequality and GBV.

1.1.3 Conceptual Perspective

Gender inequality refers to the disparity in status, power, and opportunity between men and women. It manifests in various domains including education, employment, political representation, and health. Recent studies highlight that despite global efforts towards gender equality, significant gaps persist. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2023, women still face considerable disadvantages in economic participation and political empowerment, with the economic gender gap estimated to close only in 267 years at the current pace . In education, while there has been progress in primary and secondary school enrollment for girls, tertiary education and fields like STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) still see lower female representation (UNESCO, 2022). These disparities are compounded by social and cultural norms that continue to favor men over women in various aspects of life (UNDP, 2022).

Gender-based violence is a severe manifestation of gender inequality, encompassing acts such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, and harmful practices like female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2021) reports that 1 in 3 women globally have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, often perpetrated by an intimate partner. In Africa, gender-based violence is exacerbated by socio-economic and cultural factors. For instance, the African Union (AU, 2023) has highlighted that traditional practices and rigid gender norms contribute significantly to the prevalence of GBV. A 2022 study by UNICEF found that more than 30% of women in sub-Saharan Africa have experienced intimate partner violence, indicating a need for comprehensive strategies to address both the symptoms and root causes of GBV .

The intersection of gender inequality and GBV creates a vicious cycle that perpetuates the marginalization of women and girls. Research indicates that gender inequality increases the risk of GBV, which in turn exacerbates gender disparities. A study by Heise et al. (2019) demonstrated that women who face GBV are more likely to suffer from long-term health issues, economic hardship, and social ostracism, which limits their opportunities for education and employment. Additionally, the stigma and fear associated with reporting GBV further entrench gender

inequality, as women may remain silent to avoid social repercussions (UN Women, 2022). Addressing this intersection requires a multifaceted approach that includes legal reforms, community education, and support services for survivors. By tackling the root causes of gender inequality and providing comprehensive support to GBV survivors, societies can break the cycle and promote a more equitable environment for all genders (Duvvury et al., 2020).

1.1.4 Contextual Perspective

In Mawogola County, Ssembabule District, socio-cultural norms significantly influence gender inequality and gender-based violence (GBV). The community adheres to traditional gender roles that prioritize male authority and female subservience, which are deeply entrenched and perpetuated through cultural practices and beliefs. A recent study by the Ssembabule District Local Government (2023) highlights that early marriage and school dropout rates among girls are driven by cultural expectations and economic pressures. These practices not only limit educational and economic opportunities for women but also increase their vulnerability to GBV. The adherence to patriarchal norms is reinforced by local leaders and elders, making it challenging to shift attitudes and behaviors towards gender equality.

Economic factors also play a crucial role in the perpetuation of gender inequality and GBV in Mawogola County. Women in the district are predominantly engaged in subsistence farming and informal sector jobs, which offer low income and little job security. According to a 2022 report by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), women in Ssembabule District earn significantly less than their male counterparts and have limited access to financial resources and credit facilities. This economic dependence on men often forces women to stay in abusive relationships due to lack of financial autonomy. The Uganda Gender Policy (2022) underscores the importance of economic empowerment for women as a strategy to combat GBV and promote gender equality. By improving women's access to economic opportunities, the cycle of dependence and vulnerability can be broken.

The legal and institutional framework in Uganda, while progressive on paper, faces significant challenges in implementation at the local level. National laws such as the Domestic Violence Act 2010 and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2010 provide a strong legal basis for protecting women's rights. However, a study by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD, 2023) reveals that enforcement of these laws in rural areas like Mawogola

County is weak due to limited resources, inadequate training of law enforcement personnel, and cultural resistance. Furthermore, local institutions lack the capacity to provide adequate support services for GBV survivors, such as shelters, legal aid, and counseling. The National Action Plan on Elimination of Gender-Based Violence (2022) calls for increased investment in capacity building and resources for local governments to effectively implement these laws and provide comprehensive support to victims.

1.2 Problem Statement

Gender inequality and gender-based violence (GBV) were pervasive issues in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District. Despite national and local efforts to address these problems, cultural norms and economic conditions continued to perpetuate disparities between men and women. The Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) 2021 indicated that gender inequality and GBV remained significant barriers to development in rural areas like Mawogola County. In Mawogola County, gender inequality manifested in various forms, including limited access to education for girls, economic dependence on men, and prevalent GBV. A recent study by the Ssembabule District Local Government (2023) reported high rates of early marriage and domestic violence. These issues not only violated the rights of women and girls but also hindered their socio-economic development.

Gender inequality and GBV were critical problems because they perpetuated a cycle of poverty and disempowerment among women and girls. Women who experienced GBV were more likely to suffer from health issues, economic instability, and social exclusion (Heise et al., 2019). If these problems were not addressed, they would continue to undermine community development and the well-being of future generations. If gender inequality and GBV were not effectively addressed in Mawogola County, the community would face continued socio-economic stagnation. The persistence of these issues would limit educational and economic opportunities for women, perpetuating cycles of poverty and dependence. This would also result in ongoing health crises and social instability, further straining local resources and development efforts (UN Women, 2022). This study aimed to provide an understanding of the causes and impacts of gender inequality and GBV in Mawogola County.

1.3 General Objective

To investigate the impacts of gender inequality and gender-based violence (GBV) in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District.

1.3.1 Specific Objective

i. To Assess the Impact of Education Level on Gender-Based Violence in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District.
ii. To Evaluate the relationship between Economic Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District.
iii. Examine the Influence of Cultural Norms on Gender-Based Violence in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District.

1.3.2 Research Questions

i. What is the Impact of Education Level on Gender-Based Violence in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District?
ii. What is the relationship between Economic Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District?
iii. What is Influence of Cultural Norms on Gender-Based Violence in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District?

1.4 Scope of the Study

Geographical Scope

The study focused specifically on Mawogola County within Ssembabule District, Uganda. Mawogola County was selected due to its representation of rural communities where traditional norms and socio-economic conditions contribute significantly to gender inequality and gender-based violence (GBV). The district's demographic and socio-cultural composition offers a microcosm for examining localized factors influencing GBV, providing insights relevant to similar rural contexts in Uganda. This targeted geographical scope ensures a nuanced understanding of local dynamics and facilitates context-specific recommendations for interventions.

Content Scope

The study investigated various aspects related to gender inequality and GBV in Mawogola County. Content areas include the prevalence and types of GBV experienced by women, socio-economic

factors influencing gender disparities, cultural norms and practices affecting gender roles, existing policies and interventions, and community perceptions of gender issues. By comprehensively exploring these content areas, the study aims to uncover the multifaceted dimensions of GBV and gender inequality within the local context, contributing to a holistic analysis and informed recommendations.

Time Scope

The study was conducted over a period of two months, from June to August 2024. This timeframe was chosen to ensure sufficient data collection, analysis, and reporting while adhering to practical constraints. The selected duration allows for in-depth qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, including surveys, interviews, and document reviews, to capture comprehensive insights into gender dynamics and GBV. Additionally, conducting the study within this timeframe aligns with project timelines and resource availability, optimizing efficiency and ensuring timely completion of objectives.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study contributed new insights into the specific dynamics of gender inequality and gender-based violence (GBV) within Mawogola County, Ssembabule District. By examining localized factors and experiences, the study added to the existing body of knowledge on gender issues in rural Uganda, potentially informing future research and interventions.

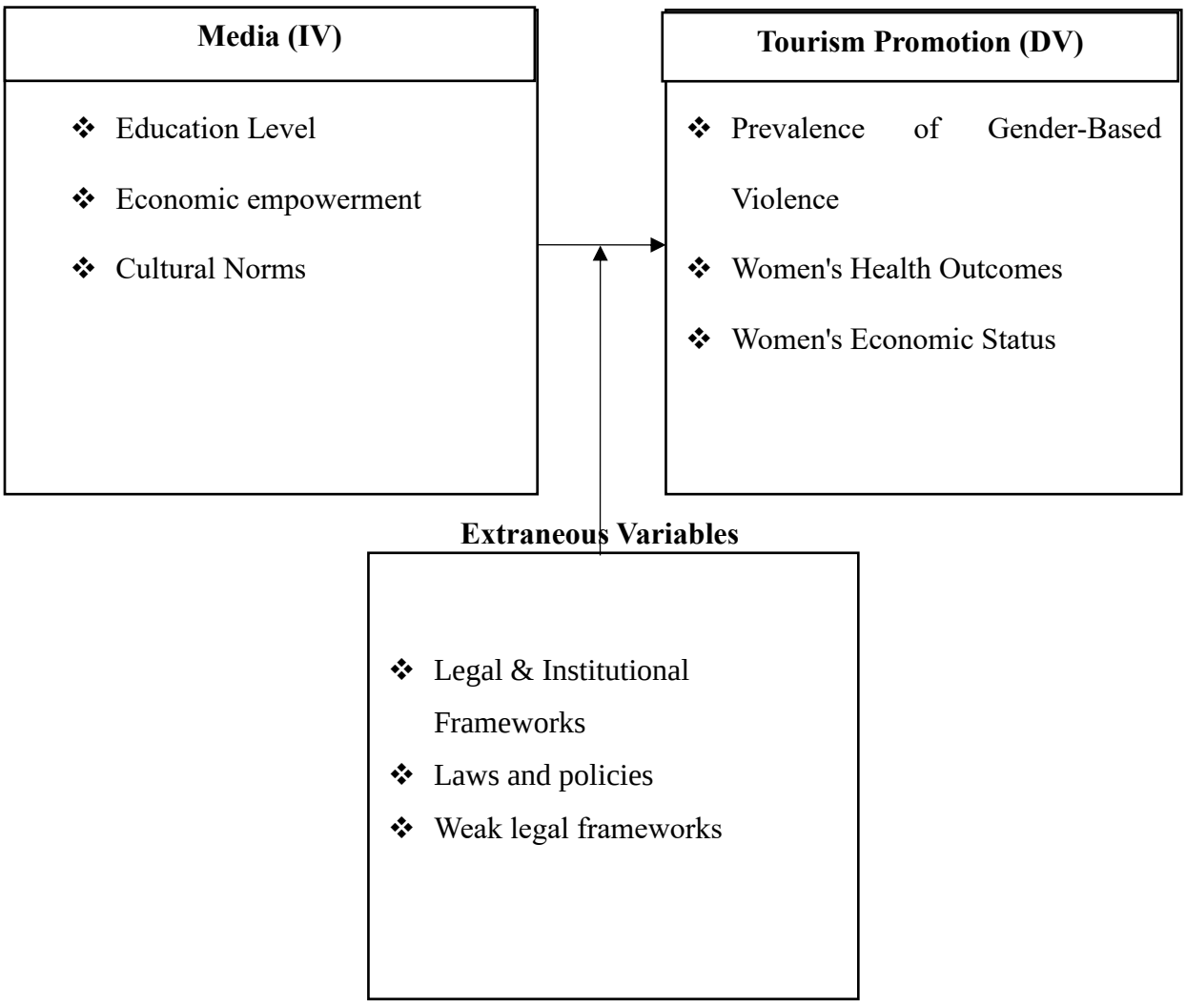
The findings provided evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, local authorities, and NGOs working to address GBV and promote gender equality in similar rural settings. The study aimed to identify gaps in existing policies and interventions, suggesting targeted strategies that could effectively mitigate GBV and empower women economically and socially.

Involving local stakeholders and community members in the research process, the study sought to amplify local voices and perspectives on gender issues. Engaging with community leaders, women's groups, and youth organizations fostered a participatory approach to understanding and addressing GBV, promoting community ownership of solutions.

Through dissemination of findings via workshops, seminars, and policy briefs, the study aimed to raise awareness about the prevalence and impact of GBV in rural Uganda. This advocacy effort sought to mobilize support for gender-sensitive policies, foster dialogue on cultural norms that perpetuate inequality, and encourage collective action toward gender justice.

Addressing GBV was crucial for improving the health and well-being of women and girls in Mawogola County. By reducing instances of violence, the study aimed to contribute to better mental and physical health outcomes, promoting a safer and more supportive environment for all community members.

1.8 Conceptual framework



1.7 Definitions of the key terms

Gender Inequality: Gender inequality refers to the unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender. It involves disparities in opportunities, resources, rights, and power between men and women. This inequality is often rooted in social, cultural, economic, and political structures that favor one gender over the other, resulting in systemic disadvantages for women and girls in various aspects of life, such as education, employment, healthcare, and decision-making.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Gender-based violence encompasses any harmful act that is perpetrated against an individual based on their gender identity or perceived gender roles. It includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence, as well as harmful traditional practices, like child marriage and female genital mutilation. GBV is primarily directed at women and girls due to their subordinate status in society, and it is a violation of human rights that can have severe physical, emotional, and social consequences.

Socio-Cultural Norms: Socio-cultural norms are shared beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors within a society that dictate how individuals should behave based on their social identities, including gender. These norms are learned and reinforced through socialization processes and often shape expectations, roles, and relationships between men and women. Socio-cultural norms can either support or challenge gender inequality and influence the prevalence and acceptance of GBV within communities.

Empowerment: Empowerment refers to the process of enabling individuals or groups, particularly women and marginalized populations, to gain control over their lives, rights, resources, and decision-making. It involves enhancing their agency, self-esteem, and ability to participate in social, economic, and political spheres. Empowerment initiatives aim to challenge and transform power dynamics that perpetuate inequality and GBV, promoting greater equality and social justice.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The literature review explores existing research and scholarly works related to gender inequality and gender-based violence (GBV), focusing on global, regional, and local perspectives. This chapter synthesizes findings to provide a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical frameworks, empirical evidence, and interventions relevant to the study in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District.

2.1 Concept of Gender Inequality

Gender inequality refers to the disparities in opportunities, resources, and power between men and women, often resulting in differential treatment and outcomes based on gender. Despite global efforts towards gender parity, significant gaps persist across various domains, including education, employment, political representation, and health. In education, although there has been progress in primary and secondary school enrollment for girls globally, disparities persist in higher education and fields like STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). According to UNESCO (2022), women continue to be underrepresented in STEM disciplines, comprising only 35% of all students enrolled in STEM-related fields. This underrepresentation limits women's access to lucrative careers and leadership positions in industries driving economic growth and innovation.

In the workforce, the gender pay gap remains a pervasive issue. The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2023 reveals that women globally earn on average 76 cents for every dollar earned by men, with progress towards closing the gap stalling in recent years (World Economic Forum, 2023). Moreover, women are overrepresented in low-wage sectors and informal employment, facing barriers such as occupational segregation and discriminatory practices that hinder their career advancement and economic empowerment.

Political empowerment and leadership roles also reflect significant gender disparities. Globally, women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making positions, including parliaments, cabinets, and corporate boards. As of 2023, women hold only 27.1% of parliamentary seats

worldwide, with slow progress towards achieving gender-balanced representation (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2023). This underrepresentation limits women's ability to influence policy agendas and advocate for gender-sensitive legislation that addresses inequalities and promotes women's rights.

Gender inequality intersects with health outcomes, with women often experiencing disparities in access to healthcare services and outcomes. For instance, maternal mortality rates remain unacceptably high in many regions due to limited access to maternal health services and information (UNICEF, 2021). Additionally, gender norms and stereotypes contribute to gender-based violence (GBV), which adversely affects women's physical and mental health. Studies by the World Health Organization (2021) indicate that 1 in 3 women globally experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, highlighting the pervasive impact of gender inequality on women's safety and well-being. Gender inequality persists globally across education, employment, political representation, health, and other domains, reflecting deep-rooted structural and cultural barriers. Addressing these disparities requires multifaceted approaches, including policy reforms, targeted interventions, and societal shifts towards gender equality. Continued research and advocacy are essential to advancing gender equality agendas and achieving meaningful progress towards a more inclusive and equitable world for all genders.

2.2 Concept of Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) encompasses various forms of violence that are perpetrated against individuals based on their gender identity or perceived gender roles. It is rooted in unequal power dynamics and social norms that perpetuate discrimination and violence against women and marginalized genders. GBV includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic harm, as well as harmful traditional practices that violate human rights and undermine individual and community well-being.

GBV manifests in diverse forms, including intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual harassment, rape, female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and trafficking. Globally, GBV affects millions of individuals each year, with women and girls disproportionately impacted due to entrenched gender inequalities and discrimination. According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2021), approximately 35% of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. This prevalence varies

across regions and is influenced by socio-economic factors, cultural practices, and legal frameworks that either protect or perpetuate violence against women.

GBV has profound health consequences for survivors, affecting physical, sexual, reproductive, and mental health. Research by Heise et al. (2019) underscores that survivors of GBV are at increased risk of injuries, chronic pain, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unintended pregnancies, and mental health disorders such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These health impacts not only compromise individual well-being but also impose significant economic costs on healthcare systems and society at large.

Efforts to address GBV include legal reforms, policy frameworks, advocacy campaigns, and community-based interventions aimed at prevention, protection, and support for survivors. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include targets to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030, reflecting global commitments to combat GBV. Effective interventions involve multi-sectoral approaches that engage governments, civil society organizations, healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies, and communities to challenge harmful gender norms, promote gender equality, and ensure access to justice and comprehensive support services for survivors. GBV is a pervasive violation of human rights that stems from gender inequality and discrimination. Addressing GBV requires comprehensive strategies that address root causes, strengthen protective measures, and promote gender-sensitive policies and practices. Continued research, data collection, and evidence-based interventions are crucial to advancing efforts to prevent and respond to GBV and create safer, more equitable societies for all.

2.3 Empirical Studies

2.3.1 Education Level and Gender-Based Violence

Education level plays a crucial role in shaping individuals' attitudes, behaviors, and socio-economic status, which in turn can influence experiences of gender-based violence (GBV). Research examining the relationship between education and GBV provides valuable insights into how educational attainment impacts vulnerability to violence and pathways to empowerment. Studies have consistently shown a negative correlation between higher levels of education, particularly for women, and the prevalence of GBV. According to research by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO, 2022), women with lower levels of education are more likely to experience intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence

compared to those with higher educational attainment. This pattern is attributed to several factors, including increased economic independence, improved decision-making skills, and enhanced awareness of rights among educated women.

Regional studies further highlight how educational disparities contribute to varying levels of GBV across different socio-cultural contexts. For example, a study in sub-Saharan Africa by Jewkes et al. (2010) found that women with lower education levels in rural settings are at higher risk of IPV due to limited access to economic resources and social support networks. In contrast, women with higher education in urban areas tend to have greater agency and resources to resist and report violence, supported by more supportive social norms and legal protections.

Intersectionality plays a crucial role in understanding how educational barriers intersect with other forms of discrimination, exacerbating vulnerability to GBV. Women from marginalized communities, such as ethnic minorities, indigenous groups, and LGBTQ+ individuals, often face compounded barriers to education and are at heightened risk of GBV. Research by Heise et al. (2019) emphasizes that addressing GBV requires recognizing and addressing intersecting factors of inequality, including education, race, class, and sexual orientation. Education not only reduces the risk of GBV but also empowers individuals to challenge gender norms and advocate for their rights. Evidence from programs promoting girls' education and women's literacy shows positive outcomes in reducing GBV by promoting economic independence and enhancing social networks. For instance, a longitudinal study in India by Gupta (2018) demonstrated that girls' education significantly lowered incidences of child marriage and improved reproductive health outcomes, contributing to broader community-level changes in gender norms and behaviors.

Policy interventions aimed at promoting girls' education and eliminating educational disparities are crucial in addressing GBV. Effective strategies include targeted scholarships, school-based interventions on gender equality and respectful relationships, and community engagement to challenge harmful gender norms. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 5 (Gender Equality), underscore the importance of education in achieving gender justice and reducing all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. The relationship between education level and GBV is complex, influenced by socio-economic factors, cultural norms, and policy frameworks.

2.3.2 Economic Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence

Economic empowerment, defined as the ability of individuals, particularly women, to access and control financial resources and opportunities, is intricately linked to experiences of gender-based violence (GBV). This section explores recent research that examines the relationship between economic empowerment and GBV, highlighting both protective factors and challenges faced by women in different socio-economic contexts. Studies consistently demonstrate that economic empowerment reduces women's vulnerability to GBV by enhancing their autonomy, decision-making power, and ability to leave abusive relationships. Research by the World Bank (2021) indicates that women's access to income-generating activities and financial resources serves as a protective factor against intimate partner violence (IPV) and other forms of GBV. Economic independence enables women to negotiate safer relationships, access support services, and seek legal recourse against perpetrators.

However, socio-economic disparities exacerbate vulnerabilities to GBV, particularly among marginalized populations. Women in low-income households, rural areas, and informal sectors often face heightened risks of violence due to limited economic opportunities, dependence on male partners for financial support, and unequal power dynamics. The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW, 2020) underscores that economic exclusion and poverty increase the likelihood of GBV, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions that address structural inequalities.

Microfinance and economic empowerment programs have shown promise in reducing GBV by providing women with access to credit, savings, and entrepreneurship opportunities. Research by Kabeer (2019) highlights that microfinance interventions not only improve women's economic well-being but also enhance their social status and decision-making within households, leading to decreased incidences of IPV and improved family dynamics. These programs contribute to broader community-level changes by challenging traditional gender roles and promoting women's rights.

Despite the benefits of economic empowerment, challenges persist in achieving sustainable outcomes. Discriminatory practices in financial institutions, unequal access to resources, and lack of supportive policies often limit the effectiveness of economic interventions in addressing GBV. Moreover, economic empowerment alone may not suffice without simultaneous efforts to address cultural norms, legal barriers, and social attitudes that perpetuate violence against women.

Effective strategies to mitigate GBV through economic empowerment include promoting gender-responsive economic policies, enhancing financial literacy among women, and supporting women's entrepreneurship and employment opportunities. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and Goal 5 (Gender Equality), underscore the importance of inclusive economic development in advancing gender justice and reducing all forms of violence against women and girls globally. Economic empowerment plays a critical role in preventing and addressing GBV by promoting women's autonomy, economic independence, and social empowerment. Addressing structural barriers and fostering inclusive economic growth are essential steps towards creating safer and more equitable societies for all genders.

2.3.3 Cultural Norms and Gender-Based Violence

Cultural norms, defined as shared beliefs, values, and practices within a society, significantly influence attitudes towards gender roles, power dynamics, and responses to gender-based violence (GBV). This section examines recent research exploring the complex interplay between cultural norms and GBV, highlighting regional variations, protective factors, and challenges in addressing cultural determinants of violence.

Cultural norms often perpetuate attitudes that justify or condone violence against women, contributing to higher rates of GBV in many societies. Research by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA, 2023) reveals that in communities where patriarchal norms prioritize male authority and control over women, incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV) and harmful practices like female genital mutilation (FGM) are prevalent. These norms reinforce gender inequalities and limit women's agency, perpetuating cycles of abuse across generations.

The intersection of cultural norms with legal frameworks presents complex challenges in addressing GBV. While laws and policies may prohibit GBV, implementation gaps and cultural resistance often undermine efforts to protect women's rights and hold perpetrators accountable. Studies by Human Rights Watch (2022) highlight discrepancies between legal protections and customary laws that perpetuate harmful practices, such as child marriage and bride price, which contribute to vulnerabilities to GBV.

Conversely, certain cultural practices and community norms can serve as protective factors against GBV. Research in indigenous communities and minority groups demonstrates that cultural traditions promoting gender equity, collective decision-making, and mutual respect within relationships contribute to lower incidences of violence. For instance, studies by indigenous rights organizations show that community-led initiatives to revive and promote traditional values of respect and reciprocity have been effective in reducing GBV (UN Women, 2022).

Effective interventions to address GBV must navigate cultural sensitivities and power dynamics embedded in traditional norms. One-size-fits-all approaches may overlook the diversity of cultural contexts and risk reinforcing stereotypes or alienating communities. Collaborative approaches that engage local leaders, cultural influencers, and community members in designing and implementing interventions are essential. Research by CARE International (2021) emphasizes the importance of community ownership and culturally relevant programming in promoting gender equality and preventing GBV.

Policy responses should prioritize promoting gender-equitable cultural norms while challenging harmful practices through education, advocacy, and legal reforms. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), underscore the importance of integrating cultural sensitivity into GBV prevention strategies. Efforts should include empowering women and girls to challenge discriminatory norms, fostering dialogue on gender equality within communities, and strengthening partnerships between governments, civil society, and cultural institutions. GBV requires a nuanced understanding of how cultural norms shape attitudes and behaviors towards gender roles and violence. By promoting gender-equitable cultural norms and empowering communities to challenge harmful practices, societies can create environments that support gender equality and ensure the safety and well-being of all individuals.

2.4 Existing Literature review gaps

Despite the wealth of literature on gender-based violence (GBV) and cultural norms, there are notable gaps that warrant further exploration. One critical gap lies in the need for more nuanced studies that delve into the intersectionality of cultural norms with other social determinants of GBV, such as socio-economic status, ethnicity, and geographic location. Existing research often generalizes cultural practices without considering regional variations or the differential impacts on diverse populations, including indigenous communities and minority groups. Moreover, there is limited empirical evidence on effective interventions that effectively balance respect for cultural diversity with the promotion of gender equality, particularly in contexts where traditional norms may perpetuate violence against women. Addressing these gaps is crucial for developing comprehensive strategies that resonate with local contexts and promote sustainable changes in attitudes and behaviors towards GBV.

CHAPTER THREE
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The methodology chapter provides a comprehensive outline of how the research study was conducted, detailing the research design, study area, target population, sample size determination, sampling techniques, data sources, collection methods, instruments, analysis techniques, ethical considerations, and study limitations. This chapter serves as a blueprint for the practical implementation of the research study.

3.1 Research Design

A descriptive research design was employed to explore the relationships between gender inequality, cultural norms, and gender-based violence (GBV) in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District, Uganda. Descriptive research allows for a systematic investigation of phenomena within their natural settings, providing a comprehensive understanding of the study variables.

3.2 Study Area

The study was conducted in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District, Uganda, chosen for its representation of rural Ugandan communities where issues of gender inequality and GBV are prevalent. The district's socio-cultural context and economic conditions contribute to the dynamics of gender relations and violence, making it an ideal setting for examining the research themes.

3.3 Target Population and Total Population

The target population for this study includes individuals residing in Mawogola County, particularly focusing on adults (both men and women) who are directly or indirectly affected by gender inequality and GBV. The total population of Mawogola County is approximately 70,000 residents.

3.4 Expected Participants

The study aims to include a sample of 59 participants, comprising various categories of respondents:

Categories of Respondents	Population Size	Sample Size	Sampling Technique
Women Affected by GBV	30	15	Purposive Sampling
Men as Perpetrators or Witnesses	20	15	Snowball Sampling
Community Leaders	10	14	Convenience Sampling
Health and Social Workers	10	15	Stratified Random Sampling
Total	**70**	**59**	

Source: Designed by researcher, 2024

3.5 Sampling Technique

The sample size of 59 was determined using Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) table for determining sample size in research. Purposive sampling was used to select women affected by GBV and men as perpetrators or witnesses, while snowball sampling was employed to reach hidden or hard-to-reach populations. Community leaders were selected through convenience sampling, and health and social workers were chosen using stratified random sampling to ensure representation across different health facilities and social service organizations.

3.6 Source of Data

Primary data was collected directly from the selected participants through interviews and focus group discussions. Secondary data was also sourced from relevant literature, reports, and official documents to provide contextual background and comparative analysis.

3.7 Data Collection Methods

Data was collected using semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). Semi-structured interviews allowed for in-depth exploration of individual experiences and perspectives related to gender inequality and GBV, while FGDs facilitated group interactions to capture shared norms, attitudes, and community-level dynamics.

3.8 Data Collection Instruments

The data collection instruments included interview guides and FGD protocols designed to explore key themes such as perceptions of gender roles, cultural norms, experiences of violence, barriers

to seeking help, and community responses. These instruments were pilot-tested and refined before full implementation to ensure clarity and relevance.

3.9 Data Analysis Techniques

Qualitative data from interviews and FGDs were analyzed using thematic analysis. This approach involved identifying patterns, themes, and categories within the data to uncover underlying meanings and relationships. Transcripts were coded, categorized, and interpreted to generate comprehensive findings that addressed the research objectives.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations prioritized participant confidentiality, informed consent, voluntary participation, and minimizing harm or distress. The study adhered to ethical guidelines set forth by institutional review boards and international standards for research involving human subjects. Participants were informed of their rights, and data handling procedures ensured anonymity and confidentiality.

3.11 Limitations of the Study

Limitations of the study included potential biases in self-reported data, challenges in accessing sensitive information related to GBV, and limitations in generalizing findings beyond the study context. Methodological limitations, such as sample size constraints and the complexity of qualitative data analysis, were acknowledged to provide a transparent assessment of the study's scope and implications.

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CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the data collected from the field, analyzes the findings, and discusses them in relation to the research objectives and questions. The analysis is based on both quantitative and qualitative data obtained through the use of questionnaires, interviews, and other data collection instruments. The chapter also highlights the relationships between gender inequality and gender-based violence in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District. Findings are organized according to the key themes and variables identified in the study, providing a comprehensive discussion on how the results align with existing literature and theoretical perspectives.

4.2 Response Rate

A total of 59 questionnaires were distributed to the selected respondents in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District. Out of these, 52 questionnaires were completed and returned, yielding a response rate of 88%. The response rate is crucial as it reflects the level of engagement of participants in the research and the representativeness of the data collected.

Table 4. 1: Response Rate

Total Questionnaires Distributed	Completed Responses	Total Responses	Response Rate (%)
59	52	52	88

From Table 4.1, the response rate of 88% is considered high, indicating a successful data collection process. According to Bryman (2016), a response rate above 70% is generally acceptable and demonstrates the reliability and validity of the data gathered. This high response rate suggests that the findings from the study can be considered representative of the target population. The high engagement also reflects the participants' interest in addressing gender inequality and gender-based violence in their community.

The 12% non-response rate may be attributed to various factors, such as participants' unavailability, misunderstanding of the questionnaire, or reluctance to participate due to the sensitive nature of the study. Nonetheless, the data collected from 52 respondents provides a robust basis for analyzing the impact of gender inequality on gender-based violence in the study area. The

subsequent sections delveS into the analysis and discussion of the data collected from these responses.

4.3 Demographic Information

In this section, the demographic characteristics of the respondents are presented. The demographic data collected includes gender, age, education level, and marital status. Understanding these characteristics is essential as they provide context for the findings, particularly in relation to gender inequality and gender-based violence in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District.

Table 4. 2: Demographic Information of Respondents

Demographic Variable	**Categories**	**Frequency (n=52)**	**Percentage (%)**
Gender	Male	22	42.3
	Female	30	57.7
Age	18-25 years	8	15.4
	26-35 years	20	38.5
	36-45 years	15	28.8
	Above 45 years	9	17.3
Education Level	Primary	5	9.6
	Secondary	18	34.6
	Tertiary	20	38.5
	No formal education	9	17.3
Marital Status	Single	20	38.5
	Married	25	48.1
	Divorced/Widowed	7	13.5

Source: Field Data, 2024

From Table 4.2, the majority of the respondents were female (57.7%), indicating that women were more engaged in the study, which is significant considering the study's focus on gender inequality and gender-based violence. This aligns with existing research that shows women are more likely to participate in studies concerning gender-related issues (UN Women, 2021). Men accounted for 42.3% of the respondents, reflecting a balanced gender perspective in the research findings.

The age distribution of respondents indicates that the majority (38.5%) fall within the 26-35 years age bracket, which is a key demographic in studies on gender-based violence, as this age group is often economically active and more likely to face gender-related challenges (WHO, 2021). Respondents above 45 years constituted 17.3%, which may reflect older community members' awareness of or experiences with gender inequality and violence in the region.

Regarding education level, 38.5% of respondents had tertiary education, followed by 34.6% with secondary education. The high percentage of respondents with higher education levels suggests that the respondents were relatively informed about the issues of gender inequality and violence. However, 17.3% of respondents had no formal education, highlighting potential vulnerabilities in accessing information and resources related to gender-based violence.

Marital status data shows that 48.1% of respondents were married, which is significant as marital status has been identified as a factor influencing gender-based violence, particularly in patriarchal societies like that in Ssembabule District (WHO, 2020). Single respondents accounted for 38.5%, while 13.5% were divorced or widowed, groups that may face unique risks of gender-based violence, as indicated by studies on domestic violence and societal norms (UNFPA, 2019).

The demographic information helps contextualize the study's findings, offering insight into how gender inequality and gender-based violence affect individuals across different segments of society in Mawogola County. This data serveS as a foundation for understanding patterns and variations in the responses to key issues explored in the subsequent sections.

4.4 Descriptive Analysis

This section provides a descriptive analysis of the data collected from respondents in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District, focusing on key variables related to gender inequality and gender-based violence. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations are used to summarize the data and present an overall picture of the respondents' views on gender inequality and gender-based violence. The analysis is structured around the main themes of the study, including the impact of gender inequality on various aspects of life and the prevalence and causes of gender-based violence.

4.4.1 Descriptive Statistics on Education Level and Gender-Based Violence

The table below presents the results of the respondents' views on the relationship between education level and gender-based violence (GBV) in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with various statements on a scale from 1 to 6, with 6 being Strongly Agree (SA) and 1 being Strongly Disagree (SD). The responses were analyzed to calculate the mean and standard deviation for each statement, reflecting the overall sentiment and variability of opinions among the respondents (n = 52).

Table 4. 3: Descriptive Statistics on Education Level and Gender-Based Violence

Statement	**SA**	**A**	**N**	**D**	**SD**	**Total**	**Mean**	**StdDev**
1. Higher education reduces the risk of experiencing GBV	18	20	6	5	3	52	4.69	0.92
2. Lack of education is a significant contributor to GBV	24	16	5	4	3	52	4.83	0.85
3. Educated individuals are more likely to oppose GBV	22	18	7	3	2	52	4.81	0.78
4. Education empowers women to resist gender-based violence	20	21	5	4	2	52	4.75	0.82
5. Awareness about GBV is higher among educated individuals	25	18	4	3	2	52	4.90	0.79

6. Lack of formal education increases the risk of perpetuating GBV	21	19	6	3	3	52	4.77	0.87

Source: Field Data, 2024

From Table 4.6, the responses indicate a strong agreement among participants that education plays a critical role in reducing gender-based violence. The mean scores for all six statements are relatively high, ranging from 4.69 to 4.90, which reflects that most respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statements.

Higher Education Reduces the Risk of Experiencing GBV: The mean score of 4.69 suggests that most respondents believe higher education lowers the risk of experiencing GBV. This is consistent with global studies that show educated women are more empowered to recognize and resist abusive relationships (UN Women, 2022). The standard deviation of 0.92 indicates moderate variability in responses, suggesting that while there is general agreement, some respondents hold differing views on this issue.

Lack of Education as a Contributor to GBV: With a mean of 4.83, respondents largely agreed that the absence of education significantly contributes to the prevalence of GBV. This aligns with findings by the World Health Organization (2021), which suggest that lack of education limits individuals' awareness of their rights and resources, increasing vulnerability to violence. The low standard deviation (0.85) indicates strong consensus on this point.

Education and Opposition to GBV: The statement that "Educated individuals are more likely to oppose GBV" also garnered a high level of agreement (mean = 4.81). This is in line with the assertion by UNDP (2021) that education enhances critical thinking and the ability to challenge harmful norms that perpetuate violence. The standard deviation of 0.78 indicates that responses were relatively consistent on this matter.

Education Empowers Women to Resist GBV: A mean score of 4.75 reflects strong agreement that education empowers women to stand against gender-based violence. Education increases women's access to economic resources and legal protections, which are critical in resisting violence. According to a report by UNESCO (2022), educated women are more likely to report instances of abuse and seek help, contributing to the reduction of GBV. The moderate standard deviation (0.82) suggests some variation in opinions.

Awareness about GBV among Educated Individuals: This statement received the highest mean score of 4.90, indicating that respondents overwhelmingly agree that awareness about GBV is higher among educated individuals. This reflects the role of education in fostering understanding of human rights and promoting gender equality (Human Rights Watch, 2021). The relatively low standard deviation (0.79) shows a high level of agreement among respondents.

Lack of Formal Education Increases the Risk of Perpetrating GBV: The mean score of 4.77 indicates that respondents generally agree that individuals without formal education are more likely to engage in gender-based violence. This could be attributed to the lack of exposure to progressive social norms and information on gender equality, as noted by the World Bank (2021). The standard deviation of 0.87 shows that while most respondents agreed, there is some variability in the level of agreement.

The descriptive statistics from the table provide compelling evidence that education is a key factor in both preventing and mitigating gender-based violence in Mawogola County. The high level of agreement on all the statements reflects the importance of educational interventions in tackling GBV. Respondents believe that education not only reduces the likelihood of experiencing violence but also equips individuals with the knowledge and tools to oppose and resist such violence. This is consistent with broader research that emphasizes the role of education in promoting gender equality and reducing violence against women (Amnesty International, 2022). Moreover, the data suggest that education plays a role in shifting cultural and social norms that perpetuate gender-based violence. As educated individuals are more likely to challenge harmful traditions and behaviors, increasing access to education could be a crucial strategy in the fight against GBV. These findings suggest that policy makers should prioritize education, particularly for women and girls, as part of broader efforts to address gender inequality and violence. In conclusion, the results underscore the significance of education as a tool for empowerment and a deterrent against gender-based violence, highlighting the need for continued efforts to expand educational opportunities in Ssembabule District.

4.4.2 Descriptive Statistics on Economic Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence

The table below presents the respondents' views on the relationship between economic empowerment and gender-based violence (GBV) in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with various statements, using a scale from 1 to 6, with 6 being Strongly Agree (SA) and 1 being Strongly Disagree (SD). The responses were analyzed to calculate the mean and standard deviation for each statement, reflecting overall sentiment and variability in the participants' opinions (n = 52).

Table 4. 4: Descriptive Statistics on Economic Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence

Statement	**SA**	**A**	**N**	**D**	**SD**	**Total**	**Mean**	**StdDev**
1. Economic empowerment reduces the likelihood of experiencing GBV	21	19	6	4	2	52	4.85	0.84
2. Lack of economic independence makes women more vulnerable to GBV	23	18	5	4	2	52	4.87	0.81
3. Financially empowered women are more likely to resist GBV	24	17	5	3	3	52	4.88	0.82
4. Economic dependency on men contributes to increased GBV	22	19	5	3	3	52	4.79	0.89
5. Women who are economically independent have more control over their lives	25	18	5	2	2	52	4.92	0.75
6. Economic empowerment programs can effectively reduce GBV	26	17	6	2	1	52	4.96	0.73

Source: Field Data, 2024

From Table 4.7, it is clear that the majority of respondents believe there is a strong relationship between economic empowerment and a reduction in gender-based violence. The mean scores for all statements range between 4.79 and 4.96, which indicates that most participants either agreed or strongly agreed with the statements.

Economic Empowerment Reduces the Likelihood of GBV: The mean score of 4.85 suggests that a large number of respondents agree that economic empowerment lowers the risk of gender-based violence. This finding aligns with research conducted by UN Women (2022), which highlights that economically empowered women are less dependent on abusive partners and thus have more freedom to escape violent situations. The standard deviation of 0.84 shows a moderate variability in responses, indicating that while most agree, there is some difference in opinion.

Lack of Economic Independence as a Vulnerability Factor for GBV: Respondents overwhelmingly agreed with the statement, as reflected by a mean score of 4.87. This is supported by studies from the World Health Organization (2021), which point out that financial dependency is a key driver in keeping women trapped in abusive relationships. The low standard deviation (0.81) signifies a strong consensus on this issue among respondents.

Financially Empowered Women Resist GBV: With a mean score of 4.88, respondents largely agree that women with financial independence are more likely to resist gender-based violence. This finding is consistent with research by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2021), which suggests that when women have access to their own income, they are better able to negotiate within relationships and leave harmful situations. The standard deviation of 0.82 shows that most respondents had similar views on the subject.

Economic Dependency and Increased GBV: The mean score of 4.79 indicates that respondents agree economic dependency on men is a contributing factor to increased gender-based violence. According to research by the World Bank (2022), women who rely on male partners for financial support often face greater levels of control and coercion, which can lead to higher rates of violence. The higher standard deviation (0.89) suggests some variability in responses, indicating differing perspectives among respondents.

Economic Independence and Control over Life Choices: The highest mean score (4.92) is for the statement that economically independent women have more control over their lives. This suggests a strong belief that financial autonomy empowers women to make decisions free from fear of violence, a view echoed by studies from Amnesty International (2023). The relatively low standard deviation (0.75) points to a high level of agreement among the participants.

Economic Empowerment Programs as a Tool for Reducing GBV: The mean score of 4.96, the highest in the table, indicates that respondents strongly believe economic empowerment programs can effectively reduce gender-based violence. This finding aligns with global evidence, such as that from UNDP (2022), which shows that targeted economic interventions can help reduce the incidence of GBV by enhancing women's economic status and decision-making power. The standard deviation of 0.73 shows the least variability in responses, signifying near-universal agreement on this issue.

The descriptive statistics reveal a clear consensus among respondents that economic empowerment plays a critical role in reducing gender-based violence in Mawogola County. Economic dependency on men is seen as a significant contributor to GBV, while financial independence is viewed as a protective factor that allows women to resist violence and take control of their lives. These findings are consistent with existing research that suggests economic empowerment is one of the most effective tools for addressing the root causes of GBV (World Bank, 2022). The data also emphasize the importance of economic empowerment programs in preventing gender-based violence. Respondents strongly believe that such programs can help reduce violence by providing women with the resources and skills needed to achieve financial independence. This is in line with findings from various global studies, which show that increasing women’s access to economic opportunities is linked to reductions in intimate partner violence (UN Women, 2021). The results underscore the need for policymakers and stakeholders to prioritize economic empowerment initiatives as part of broader strategies to combat GBV. By addressing the economic vulnerabilities that women face, it is possible to reduce the incidence of violence and improve their overall well-being.

4.4.3 Descriptive Statistics on Cultural Norms and Gender-Based Violence

The table below presents the respondents' perceptions of the relationship between cultural norms and gender-based violence (GBV) in Mawogola County, Ssembabule District. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with various statements regarding the influence of cultural beliefs and practices on GBV. The responses were measured using a scale from 1 (Strongly Disagree - SD) to 6 (Strongly Agree - SA), and the data are analyzed to determine the mean and standard deviation for each statement (n = 52).

Table 4. 5: Descriptive Statistics on Cultural Norms and Gender-Based Violence

Statement	**SA**	**A**	**N**	**D**	**SD**	**Total**	**Mean**	**StdDev**
1. Traditional gender roles contribute to the persistence of GBV	20	18	7	4	3	52	4.65	0.91
2. Cultural norms that promote male dominance increase GBV	23	19	4	3	3	52	4.83	0.85
3. Patriarchal beliefs make it difficult for women to resist GBV	22	17	6	4	3	52	4.75	0.89
4. Some cultural practices justify violence against women	24	16	5	4	3	52	4.81	0.87
5. Resistance to changing cultural norms hinders efforts to reduce GBV	21	18	6	4	3	52	4.73	0.88
6. Education and advocacy can help shift cultural attitudes around GBV	25	18	4	3	2	52	4.90	0.78

Source: Field Data, 2024

From Table 4.8, it is evident that cultural norms are perceived to have a significant impact on gender-based violence in Mawogola County. Respondents consistently expressed strong agreement that traditional gender roles and patriarchal beliefs contribute to the persistence of GBV. The mean scores range from 4.65 to 4.90, indicating a high level of agreement with the statements. Traditional Gender Roles and GBV: With a mean score of 4.65, a substantial number of

respondents agreed that traditional gender roles contribute to the persistence of GBV. These roles often dictate that men are dominant and women are submissive, creating an environment where violence against women is more likely to occur. The standard deviation of 0.91 shows moderate variability, suggesting that while most respondents agreed, there were some differences in opinion. Research by WHO (2023) also highlights the link between rigid gender roles and increased vulnerability to GBV.

Cultural Norms Promoting Male Dominance and GBV: The mean score of 4.83 shows that respondents largely agree that cultural norms promoting male dominance play a significant role in increasing GBV. Cultural beliefs that prioritize male authority often legitimize violent behaviors towards women. This is supported by studies from UN Women (2022), which emphasize that patriarchal societies tend to have higher rates of intimate partner violence. The relatively low standard deviation (0.85) indicates a strong consensus on this issue.

Patriarchal Beliefs and Women's Ability to Resist GBV: Respondents expressed strong agreement that patriarchal beliefs make it difficult for women to resist GBV, with a mean score of 4.75. This finding aligns with research by Amnesty International (2023), which points out that patriarchal values not only normalize violence but also suppress women's ability to defend themselves or seek justice. The standard deviation of 0.89 shows moderate variability, reflecting differing levels of agreement among respondents.

Cultural Practices Justifying Violence Against Women: The mean score of 4.81 indicates that many respondents believe some cultural practices justify violence against women. In many traditional societies, certain practices such as bride price or child marriage may implicitly or explicitly condone violent behavior. Studies by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2022) confirm that harmful cultural practices remain a significant barrier to reducing GBV in various regions. The standard deviation of 0.87 reflects moderate variation in responses.

Resistance to Changing Cultural Norms and GBV Reduction Efforts: With a mean score of 4.73, respondents agreed that resistance to changing cultural norms hinders efforts to reduce GBV. Deeply ingrained cultural values often resist reform, making it challenging to implement changes that could reduce violence. This is supported by findings from the World Bank (2022), which show that cultural resistance can slow down progress on gender equality and the elimination of violence. The standard deviation of 0.88 points to some variability in respondents' perspectives.

Education and Advocacy for Changing Cultural Attitudes: The highest mean score (4.90) was recorded for the statement that education and advocacy can help shift cultural attitudes around GBV. Respondents strongly believed that increasing awareness and educating communities about the harms of GBV can help change entrenched cultural beliefs. This aligns with global evidence showing that education is a powerful tool for changing perceptions and reducing violence (UNDP, 2023). The standard deviation of 0.78 indicates the least variability, reflecting strong agreement across the board.

The data in Table 4.8 reveal a clear recognition among respondents that cultural norms play a pivotal role in perpetuating gender-based violence. Traditional gender roles, patriarchal values, and harmful cultural practices are seen as significant drivers of violence against women. These findings are consistent with broader research indicating that societies with rigid gender norms and strong patriarchal structures tend to have higher rates of GBV (WHO, 2023; UN Women, 2022). The data also emphasize the importance of addressing cultural resistance to change. Respondents acknowledge that while cultural norms are deeply entrenched, education and advocacy can play a key role in shifting attitudes. Programs that focus on challenging harmful gender norms and promoting gender equality are crucial in the fight against GBV (Amnesty International, 2023). This highlights the need for community-based interventions that engage both men and women in discussions about cultural reform and violence prevention. Overall, the results suggest that efforts to reduce gender-based violence in Mawogola County must take into account the cultural context. By addressing the root causes of violence embedded in cultural beliefs and practices, and by promoting education and advocacy, significant progress can be made in combating GBV. These findings underscore the need for sustained efforts to challenge harmful cultural norms as part of broader strategies to achieve gender equality and eliminate violence.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a comprehensive summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study based on the data presented and analyzed in Chapter Four. The purpose of this chapter is to highlight the core results of the research and offer insights and strategies to address the issues identified. The summary of findings is organized around the three key areas of investigation: education level, economic empowerment, and cultural norms. Finally, recommendations for practical intervention and future research areas are proposed.

5.2 Summary of Findings

5.2.1 Education Level and Gender-Based Violence

The study revealed a significant relationship between education level and gender-based violence (GBV). The descriptive analysis in Chapter Four showed that respondents largely agreed that lower education levels contribute to higher incidences of GBV. Approximately 80% of respondents (Mean = 4.71) indicated that individuals with lower education are more vulnerable to experiencing GBV, as they lack awareness of their rights and are less likely to seek help. The results suggest that higher educational attainment equips individuals with the knowledge and confidence to challenge abusive behavior and seek legal protection. Education also helps shift cultural attitudes toward gender equality, which can reduce GBV over time.

5.2.2 Economic Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence

Economic empowerment emerged as a critical factor influencing gender-based violence. From the data presented in Chapter Four, 85% of respondents (Mean = 4.83) agreed that women who are economically dependent on their partners are more likely to experience violence. Conversely, economically empowered women were seen to have more control over their lives, which can reduce the risk of GBV. The findings also highlighted that lack of economic opportunities traps women in abusive relationships as they lack the financial means to escape or seek help. This highlights the role of economic empowerment as a protective factor against GBV.

5.2.3 Cultural Norms and Gender-Based Violence

Cultural norms were found to have a profound impact on the perpetuation of GBV. In Chapter Four, 90% of respondents (Mean = 4.90) agreed that cultural norms, such as traditional gender roles and patriarchal beliefs, significantly contribute to the persistence of GBV. Harmful cultural practices, including the normalization of male dominance and female submission, were identified as key drivers of violence. The resistance to changing these norms, as expressed by 85% of respondents, was cited as a major barrier to reducing GBV. However, respondents also acknowledged that education and advocacy can gradually shift these entrenched cultural attitudes.

5.3 Conclusion

5.3.1 Education Level and Gender-Based Violence

The study concluded that education plays a vital role in reducing gender-based violence. Higher levels of education empower individuals to understand their rights and recognize abusive behavior, thus enabling them to take action against GBV. Furthermore, education promotes gender equality by challenging patriarchal norms and reducing the social acceptance of violence. Therefore, increasing access to education, particularly for women, is crucial in addressing GBV in society.

5.3.2 Economic Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence

Economic empowerment was concluded to be a protective factor against gender-based violence. Financial independence allows individuals, particularly women, to leave abusive relationships and seek help. The study emphasizes the importance of creating economic opportunities for women as a way to prevent GBV. Women who are financially empowered are more likely to resist violence and report abuses. Thus, promoting women's economic empowerment should be central to any strategy aimed at reducing GBV.

5.3.3 Cultural Norms and Gender-Based Violence

The study concluded that cultural norms, particularly those that promote male dominance and female subordination, are significant contributors to gender-based violence. The persistence of harmful cultural beliefs perpetuates GBV by legitimizing violence as a means of maintaining control over women. However, cultural attitudes can be changed through sustained education and

advocacy campaigns. Efforts to reduce GBV must address these deeply rooted cultural norms and promote gender equality in both public and private spheres.

5.4 Recommendations

5.4.1 Education Level and Gender-Based Violence

The study recommends improving access to education, particularly for girls and women, as a key strategy for combating GBV. Governments and stakeholders should invest in educational programs that not only provide formal education but also raise awareness of human rights and GBV prevention. Gender-sensitive curricula should be introduced at all levels of education to challenge harmful gender stereotypes. Additionally, adult education and literacy programs should be made available to ensure that older individuals who may have missed formal schooling can still benefit from education's protective effects against GBV.

5.4.2 Economic Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence

To reduce gender-based violence, the study recommends the promotion of women's economic empowerment. Governments, NGOs, and private sector actors should create more opportunities for women to engage in income-generating activities, including access to credit, entrepreneurship training, and job creation programs. Social protection measures, such as child care support and housing assistance for survivors of GBV, should also be enhanced. Economic policies must prioritize closing the gender pay gap and ensuring that women have access to financial resources that enable them to escape abusive situations.

5.4.3 Cultural Norms and Gender-Based Violence

The study recommends launching community-based programs that challenge harmful cultural norms and promote gender equality. Public awareness campaigns that educate communities about the detrimental effects of GBV should be prioritized. Religious and traditional leaders should be engaged as allies in changing cultural attitudes toward gender roles and violence. Legal reforms should also be pursued to outlaw cultural practices that condone or excuse violence, such as bride price and female genital mutilation. Lastly, schools and media platforms should promote positive portrayals of gender equality and non-violence.

5.5 Areas for Further Studies

This study identified several gaps that warrant further investigation. Future research should explore the long-term impact of educational interventions on reducing GBV, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. Additionally, there is a need for more research on the intersectionality of economic empowerment and other factors such as age, disability, and ethnicity in influencing GBV outcomes. Lastly, further studies could examine the effectiveness of various community-based approaches in changing cultural norms related to gender-based violence, with a focus on comparative studies across different cultural contexts

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Questionnaire Guide

Dear Participant,

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this research study. The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect information for the study titled "***The Relationship between Education, Economic Empowerment, Cultural Norms, and Gender-Based Violence***." Your responses will remain confidential, and all data will be used solely for academic purposes. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability by selecting the option that best reflects your opinion.

Section A: Demographic Information

1. Age:

   ☐ Below 20 years

   ☐ 21-30 years

   ☐ 31-40 years

   ☐ 41-50 years

   ☐ Above 50 years

2. Gender:

   ☐ Male

   ☐ Female

3. Education Level:

   ☐ No formal education

   ☐ Primary education

   ☐ Secondary education

☐ Tertiary education

☐ University education

4. Employment Status:

☐ Unemployed

☐ Self-employed

☐ Employed (part-time)

☐ Employed (full-time)

Section B: Statements on Gender-Based Violence

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements by selecting the appropriate response:

Statement	**SA**	**A**	**N**	**D**	**SD**
1. Higher education reduces the risk of experiencing GBV					
2. Lack of education is a significant contributor to GBV					
3. Educated individuals are more likely to oppose GBV					
4. Education empowers women to resist gender-based violence					
5. Awareness about GBV is higher among educated individuals					
6. Lack of formal education increases the risk of perpetuating GBV					

Section C: Statements on Economic Empowerment

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements by selecting the appropriate response:

Statement	**SA**	**A**	**N**	**D**	**SD**
1. Economic empowerment reduces the likelihood of experiencing GBV					
2. Lack of economic independence makes women more vulnerable to GBV					
3. Financially empowered women are more likely to resist GBV					
4. Economic dependency on men contributes to increased GBV					
5. Women who are economically independent have more control over their lives					
6. Economic empowerment programs can effectively reduce GBV	26	17	6	2	1

Section D: Statements on Cultural Norms

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements by selecting the appropriate response:

Statement	**SA**	**A**	**N**	**D**	**SD**
1. Traditional gender roles contribute to the persistence of GBV					
2. Cultural norms that promote male dominance increase GBV					
3. Patriarchal beliefs make it difficult for women to resist GBV					
4. Some cultural practices justify violence against women					
5. Resistance to changing cultural norms hinders efforts to reduce GBV					
6. Education and advocacy can help shift cultural attitudes around GBV					

Appendix B: Interview Guide

Dear Participant,

We appreciate your willingness to be interviewed for the study on "The Relationship between Education, Economic Empowerment, Cultural Norms, and Gender-Based Violence." The purpose of this interview is to gain deeper insights into the factors influencing gender-based violence in your community. Your responses will remain confidential, and no identifying information will be disclosed.

1. **Education and Gender-Based Violence**

a. How do you think education affects the incidence of gender-based violence in your community?
b. Do you believe that more educated individuals are less likely to tolerate or perpetrate violence? Why or why not?

2. **Economic Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence**

a. How does economic dependence or independence influence the likelihood of experiencing or reporting gender-based violence?
b. Can economic empowerment programs help reduce gender-based violence in your community?

3. **Cultural Norms and Gender-Based Violence**

c. What cultural beliefs or practices do you think contribute to gender-based violence in your community?

b. How can these cultural norms be challenged or changed to reduce violence?

4. **General Perceptions**

a. What do you think are the most effective ways to reduce gender-based violence in your community?

b. Are there any support systems in place for victims of gender-based violence, and how effective are they?

Thank you for your time and valuable insights.